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Remarks

Reconsideration of the above-captioned application is respectfully requested. All pending claims (1-18) have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Harkins et al. (RFC 2409) in view of Asay et al. (USPN 5,903,882). The informalities noted in the claims have been cured herein. The remarks below explain why the claims are patentable over the applied references.

The rejection admits that the primary reference fails to teach two certificates generated by respective CAs that are independent of each other, but alleges that Asay et al., col. 32, lines 9-17, col. 37, lines 25-51, figure 6, elements 206 and 208, and figure 8 supply the missing teaching. This appears to be incorrect. Col. 32, lines 9-17 make clear that a single certificate is used, although the source of the certificate could be one of several CAs or sponsors. Col. 36, lines 25-51 discloses that different device manufacturers use different counting factors and says nothing about trust relationships. With respect to the relied-upon figures, it is clear that the CAs are in a hierarchy; if anything, this militates toward CA interdependence, not independence. In any case, nowhere do any of the relied-upon portions of Asay et al. teach or suggest that the CAs are not in a trust relationship with each other, as is otherwise required by independent Claims 1 and 13.

With respect to independent Claim 7, the rejection admits that the primary reference fails to teach a second ID, much less combining it with a first ID in an ID payload that is sent to a computer along with a certificate payload, but alleges that the above-discussed portions of Asay et al. remedy this shortfall. For reasons advanced above, they do not, because while Asay et al. envisions a group of CAs, one and only one CA is ever allowed to operably act or be involved in relation to any particular certificate.

The comments above apply to independent Claim 10 as well.

1053-112.AMD

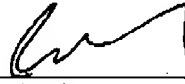
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The fact that Applicant has focussed its comments distinguishing the present claims from the applied references and countering certain rejections must not be construed as acquiescence in other portions of rejections not specifically addressed.

The Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at (619) 338-8075 for any reason which would advance the instant application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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